

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for inhibiting TNF activity, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a hybrid protein comprising two different coexpressed amino acid sequences forming a heterodimer, each comprising:

(a) at least one amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of TNF Binding Protein 1 (TBP1), TNF Binding Protein 2 (TBP2), and a fragment of said TBP1 or TBP2 still containing the ligand binding domain; and

(b) a subunit of hCG, FSH, LH, TSH, or a fragment of hCG, FSG, LH or TSH which retains the ability of the subunit to form a heterodimer with other subunits thereof;

wherein sequences (a) and (b) are joined either directly or through a peptide linker, and in which the sequences (b) in each of said two coexpressed sequences aggregate with each other to dimerize and form a heterodimer.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said two coexpressed amino acid sequences each include the sequence for TBP1 or a fragment thereof having amino acid residues 20-262 or 20-290 of TBP1, as sequence (a) and the respective α and β subunits of hCG or fragments thereof, as sequence (b), and wherein said two coexpressed amino acid sequences form a heterodimer through association of α and β subunits of hCG or fragments thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient in need thereof is being treated for Kaposi's sarcoma and metabolic wasting of AIDS.